ART. XXX.—*A System of Human Anatomy, including its Medical and Surgical Relations.* By HARRISON ALLEN, M.D., Professor of Physiology in the University of Pennsylvania, etc. etc. *Section* V. *Nervous System. Section* VI. *Organs of Sense, of Digestion, and Genito-Urinary Organs.* 4to. pp. xv., 582–812. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co., 1883.

"ALLEN'S ANATOMY" is now published in full, Sections 5 and 6 completing the work. In them are considered the *nervous, digestive, respiratory* and *genito-urinary systems*, together with sub-sections on *topographical anatomy*, on *malformations*, and on the *method of making post-mortem examinations.* If anything were necessary to convince us that there has been progress made in anatomy in these latter years, the required evidence might easily be found in a comparison of what is here written on the spinal cord and brain, with that presented in the text-books and reference volumes of twenty-five years ago. More than fifty pages of Section V. are occupied with the macroscopical, microscopical, and developmental features of the new anatomy of the central organs; and the value of such anatomical knowledge is shown by frequent references to reported clinical facts. In like manner in the consideration of the cranial and spinal nerves, while origin, course, and distribution are clearly stated, cases in illustration of their pathology are freely introduced.

The Soemmering classification of the cranial nerves is adopted. The usual exactness of anatomical description is occasionally interrupted by statements, the errors of which must be attributed to defective proof-reading. For example, the nucleus of origin of the fourth nerve is on one page placed directly in *front* of, and on the next page *behind* that of the third; a filament joining the lingual is derived from the mylo-hyoid *muscle;* the external branch of the spinal accessory is stated to pass "obliquely downward and outward between the *common* carotid artery and the internal jugular vein"; the fourth and ophthalmic branch of the fifth are given as *entering* the cavernous sinus, though elsewhere properly located in its outer wall. The Vidian is described as coming from the spheno-palatine ganglion, but later it is stated that the present belief is that it passes *toward* the ganglion. Due notice is taken of Bigelow's and Sapolini's views of the origin of the chorda tympani.

The spinal cord, "with the exception of the terminal filament," is stated to be "within the cervical and *lumbar* portions of the vertebral canal." The branches of the brachial plexus are classified according to the groups of muscles to which they are distributed; one set going to the trunkal muscles, a second to the extrinsic muscles of the upper extremity, and a third to its intrinsic muscles. Attention is called to the fact that after division of the tendon of the biceps femoris, the external popliteal nerve "springs up so as to occupy its place, feeling as tense as the tendon did before division. The inexperienced operator may conclude that the tendon has not been completely divided, and under these circumstances the knife may be reintroduced, and the nerve divided." The middle cardiac nerve of the sympathetic is stated "to run downward behind the *internal* carotid artery, and enter the thorax either in front of or behind the subclavian artery."

Section VI., nearly one-third of the entire work, is devoted chiefly to the *organs of sense, of digestion, of respiration,* and *the genito-urinary* *organs;* the last fifty pages being given to *superficial anatomy*, to *malformations*, and to the *method of making post-mortem examinations.*

Neither time nor space permits of any detailed consideration of the thorough and excellent way in which are treated the numerous and important subjects of the first part of this section. The *eye*, the *ear*, the *nose*, the *mouth*, the *larynx*, the *lungs*, and the whole *alimentary* and *genito-urinary tracts*, with their appended organs, are here found treated of, and the sub-section closes with a description of the *skin* and *nails.* Reference must be made, in passing, to the valuable table (from L. Mayer) given in the sub-section on the *liver*, and " designed to show the character of the lesions of internal organs accompanying gunshot and other wounds in the neighborhood" of that viscus. The page-heading " organs of sense" has been carried over quite a distance into the part of the work devoted to the "organs of digestion."

Of the second part of the section, nearly one-half the pages are devoted to *superficial* and *topographical anatomy;* a subject the value of which every anatomical teacher must recognize, while at the same time fully aware how little knowledge of it is possessed by students in general. Though in the various text-books of late years published in Great Britain and our own country, increasing attention has been given to this surface anatomy of the living body, still in no one of them is the treatment of the subject anything like so full and instructive as here.

In the pages in which is given "a brief outline of those phases of embryology which may be held to be useful in studying congenital defects," the author discusses the *causes and varieties of malformations*, the *parts of the embryo in which they occur*, and the *forces which underlie the congenital forms.* Förster's classification (with his well-known figures) is presented, Foster and Balfour's writings on fœtal development are freely quoted, and a number of Dalton's familiar plates are introduced. In writing of " Errors of Mesoblastic Origin" it is suggested that "it would be a useful tentative position for the pathologist to accustom himself to view many forms of morbid growth, particularly the myxomata and sarcomata, as expressive of mesoblastic development occurring out of place and order." Exception is taken to the use, aside from its convenience, of the term " twin," in speaking of double monsters: "A twin, strictly speaking, is one of two born at a birth. A double monster is a single individual, and, as such, arises from a single blastodermic membrane overlying a single vitellus."

For the making of post-mortem examinations very full and precise rules are given. In the opening of the abdomen, it is recommended to make a transverse incision just above or below the umbilicus. In private practice it is generally more advisable to add to the longitudinal incision simply a free division of the rectus fibres a short distance above the pubes. When special attention is to be given to the state of the heart, it is directed that the liver be left in position "until the thorax has been opened and the heart examined." For the removal of the nasal chambers and the ears for special study Schalle's method, " undoubtedly the best," is recommended, and considerable space is devoted to a description of it.

To this section is appended what will add not a little to the comfort of those using the work, very full general and clinical indices.

Appearing, as it has, in serial parts, it is only now, with the last section in hand, that any just estimate can be formed of the value of this " System of Human Anatomy." Everywhere throughout the work appear evidences of the immense labor connected with its preparation, and of the author's constant effort to present with the anatomical facts such clinical applications as may at once illustrate and impress them. Whether to the ordinary student "receiving first impressions of this great subject," such "union of the descriptive and the clinical data" is of service, is a question; but there can be no doubt of its great value to one more advanced, especially to the general practitioner, from whose mind unapplied anatomical details so easily and so quickly slip away. To such practitioner the work under review will be a perfect treasure-house of knowledge, to which he will turn again and again.

Until a later edition may appear, free from the numerous errors that now mar the work and seriously impair its value, the reader should be in possession of such knowledge of descriptive data as will enable him to make the necessary corrections. Though, almost without exception, the present errors are such as might and would have been at once avoided had there been more careful revision of the proof, yet no one knows better than the author that, as an anatomical statement is either exactly right or exactly wrong, absolute accuracy must characterize any work which will be accepted as an authority. Freed from its blemishes, "Allen's Anatomy" would receive from every one merited praise as the most valuable work on anatomy published in the English language, and from such blemishes it can easily be freed. The more it is studied the more valuable it appears, and the more apparent becomes the obligation the reader is under to its distinguished author, whose industry and learning have brought together and in relation such a multitude of descriptive data, and of clinical facts bearing thereon. P. S. C.

ART. XXXI.—*Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, United States Army. Authors and Subjects.* Vol. v. Flaccus–Hearth. 4to. pp. [ii] 1055. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1884.

FROM the summary of the contents of this volume contained in the brief prefatory report of Dr. Billings we learn that it includes 15,555 author-titles, representing 5755 volumes and 12,596 pamphlets. It also includes 8069 subject-titles of separate books and pamphlets, and 34,127 titles of articles in periodicals.

All this vast list is classified according to the rules which have obtained in the arrangement of the previous volumes. Those rules are such as have received the approbation of librarians generally, and even were this not the case, the decision of so competent an authority as the gentleman who has done this work, with such an abundance of material at command, would be enough to establish the rule. We speak of these methods as those generally approved, but no system of classification yet adopted in medical literature has received unanimous consent. To each one there are objections which can be fairly urged, and none which will meet all requirements. Thus gastrostomy and gastrotomy are both included under the latter title, and the reader is pointed by cross reference to abdominal and Cæsarean section, to fistula, intestines, ovariotomy, pregnancy, and